Photograph of a Bright Meteor.

Ansonia, Connecticut, March 18, 1893.

Secretary of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Dear Sir:—I take pleasure in sending herewith a print of a meteor trail which I obtained on January 13 of this year. I was trying to get a photograph of Holmes' comet to add to some I had already made, and while so engaged was startled by a bright light. On developing the plate I found that an immense meteor had passed directly across the centre of my plate (a 4 x 5). The exposure on the stars was for 33 minutes, and although these are very distinct and show down to 10½ magnitude, the meteor trail, which was of course instantaneous, is very much more intense than any of the stars.

This plate is valuable also as testifying to the extreme faintness of Holmes' comet on January 13, the exposure of 33 minutes failing to bring it out. Within three days it had altered, as you know, to an 8th magnitude star. The change, therefore, must have taken place after the 13th. Microscopic examination of the meteor trail reveals very remarkable fluctuations of the light of the meteor during its passage across the plate. An enlargement of about seventeen times looks like a row of knots tied in a string. These are undoubtedly due to small pieces breaking off, and also to the revolution of the meteor on its axis.

Yours respectfully,

John E. Lewis, Member A. S. P.

Large Discs of Optical Glass.

It is reported that Mantois of Paris, the celebrated maker of optical glass, is preparing discs thirty inches in diameter to be exhibited at the World's Fair. It is to be hoped that they may be figured and retained in this country. They ought to come to California. The number of observatories provided with powerful telescopes can still be increased without having too many. The science of astronomy is broadening rapidly, new fields of investigation are being opened up, and by reason of the vast amount and great variety of work to be done, no one great telescope would necessarily duplicate the work of another. For this reason great telescopes are not competitors. W. J. Hussey.

Stanford University, March, 1893.